

GENERAL NEWS

Senator Butler on National Populism.

Washington Cor. Post: Former Senator Marion Butler, Chairman of the National Populist Executive Committee, does not believe that the Populists generally will support President Roosevelt in the campaign next year. "There may be individual cases," said Mr. Butler, "where Populists, or members of the People's Party, will support Mr. Roosevelt for President, but members of the party generally will not follow the lead of the candidate of either the Republican or Democratic Party. Democrats are going to nominate a man of the Cleveland type; and that will make the Populists throughout the country more loyal than ever to their principles, and will cause their number to grow. The present situation makes it certain that the Populist Party will put a candidate in the field for President."

A Marvelous Invention.

The inventive genius of the Yankee is proverbial, but a young Southron, Miller Reese Hutchinson, of Alabama, has made an invention that seems destined to bring more joy to the world, especially to that large number that finds it either difficult to hear or altogether impossible, than any other invention of recent years. Queen Alexandra, of Great Britain, herself a victim of a defective ear, already has decorated this young American, and an exhibition he gave in his laboratory in New York the other day indicated that it was deserved. In the presence of distinguished specialists, Hutchinson caused three children who never before had heard a sound to sit in wonder indescribable as they listened to music, to the sound of a phonograph and finally to the sound of their own voices. None but those who have been deprived of the sense of hearing can conceive of the delight and joy this experience afforded them, together with the assurance that hereafter they were to enjoy the privileges accorded to those possessed of perfect hearing. The invention consists, primarily, of a transmitter, an earpiece and a small electric battery. The battery may be carried in the waistcoat pocket, and the earpiece is not larger than a watch case. The penetrating quality of the electric sound wave apparently disregards the mechanism of the outer ear and affects the inner ear direct.—Chicago Voice.

Selecting Men for the Rhodes Scholarships.

Free collegiate training at Oxford, England, is the opportunity of at least two young men in every State and Territory of the Union. The provision of free scholarships for American youths was made under the will of the late Cecil Rhodes, the South Africa "Diamond King." During the past three months Mr. George R. Parkin, representing the Oxford trustees, has been endeavoring to set-

tle upon a method of selection with the leading educational men of the United States. It is probable that the nominations will be made by State committees selected for that purpose. In some States, appointments will be made in rotation by the leading colleges; in others, candidates will be chosen directly from secondary schools. It is expected that the first scholars will be selected before the end of the year; these will enter on residence at Oxford some time during the latter part of 1904. The age limit is twenty-four at entering Oxford, and the candidate must be a citizen or a son of a citizen of the United States, and unmarried. All expenses of the Rhodes Scholarship Students are defrayed by the executors of the South African "Pathfinder's" will.—Collier's Weekly.

The Negro Population.

The latest census bulletin shows that while the white population of the United States increased 21.4 per cent between 1890 and 1900, the increase of the colored population was only 18.1 per cent. This general result does not at all surprise us. But there are some particular facts that do furnish food for reflection. Of the Southern States the only ones in which the percentage of negro increase has been greater than that of the whites are Florida, in which the ratio was 38.8 to 32.2; Mississippi, where the percentage was 22.2 to 17.7; Alabama, where it was 21.9 to 20.1; West Virginia, where it was 33.1 to 25.4, and Arkansas, where it was 17.7 to 15.4. The whites have gained largely on the negroes in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and the Indian Territory. In Louisiana ten years ago the two races were about equal in numbers. Now the whites are in the majority by nearly 80,000. It is interesting to note, on the other hand, that in the North Atlantic group of States, from and including Maine to Pennsylvania, the negroes are increasing at a percentage vastly greater than the whites; that is, the percentage of the increase of the negroes is 42.6, while that of the whites is 20.5, less than half that of the negroes in those States. In the several States themselves the percentage of increase for the negroes has been: In New Jersey, 46.6; Pennsylvania, 45.8; Massachusetts, 44.4; New York, 41.6. Including the natural increase, 115,000 negroes have been added to the population of those States since 1890. Pennsylvania has 157,000 negroes, New York has 92,000, New Jersey has 70,000 and Massachusetts 32,000. In the North Central Division, composed of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa, the increase of negro population in the past ten years has been 65,000. Ohio's percentage of increase has not been large, being 11.2 of negroes to 13.3 of whites; nevertheless, Ohio was 97,000 negroes, while Illinois has 85,000 and Indiana 57,000. The percentage of negro increase in Illinois has been 49.2; Indiana, 27.2; Minnesota, 34.6; Iowa, 18.8.—Nashville Christian Advocate.

The Postoffice Department Investigation.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Less than two weeks ago Postmaster-General Payne announced that there would be a deficit in the appropriation for the free delivery division approximating \$25,000, and for that reason no new free delivery routes would be established before first of July. Since then, Inspector Fosnes has been designated Acting General Superintendent of Free Delivery, Mr. Machen, the former incumbent, has been relieved. Now Mr. Fosnes has discovered that instead of \$25,000 or less, the actual deficit will amount to not less than \$235,000. This is but a further demonstration of the extravagance of the methods heretofore in vogue in the Post-office Department and against which First Assistant Postmaster General Wynne protested, thereby precipitating the current investigation.

The most sensational feature of the Post-office scandal during the past week has been the statement of Former Cashier Tulloch, of the Washington Post-office, in which he gives date and number of the vouchers covering many grave irregularities involving ex-First Assistant Postmaster-General Perry Heath, ex-Postmaster-General Smith, Abner McKinley, a brother of the late President, and numerous other prominent officials. When this report was first filed the Postmaster-General attempted to kill it with ridicule, but when the report itself was made public by Mr. Tulloch it caused a great sensation, and the Post-office officials are now engaged in trying to demonstrate that the more serious charges are exaggerated. In one instance, a Mrs. Fannie R. Winans, of Columbus, Ohio, was placed on the rolls at the behest of Senator Hanna, by Perry Heath, but not only was assigned to no duty, but could secure none, although she urged that she be given an opportunity to earn her salary, for a period of eleven months. Mrs. Winans is now an employe of the Pension Office, having passed several civil service examinations and been placed in the classified service.

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A New Ireland.

For several months the London correspondents of American newspapers have been hinting that something definite was in the air concerning a settlement of the Irish question. To most readers, however familiar they may be with the long Irish controversy, the report seemed as chimerical as predictions of the weather based upon the legend of the ground-hog's shadow. In fact, however, the morning sun is rising upon a new Ireland. Fifteen years ago Mr. Arthur Balfour became Chief Secretary to Ireland, with a still younger man, George Wyndham, as his private secretary. Together they visited every corner of Ireland, and familiarized themselves with all its

problems. One of Mr. Balfour's first acts on becoming prime minister was to appoint Mr. Wyndham Secretary for Ireland, and the two began to deepen and broaden the plans which they had sketched in earlier years. Sir Antony MacDonnell, an Irishman, a Roman Catholic, a Nationalist and a Home Ruler, was sent to Dublin as under-secretary. In a short two months, says Walter Wellman in the Review of Reviews, Sir Antony had consulted every class of people, landlords and tenants, Catholics and Protestants, Nationalists and Unionists, and secured a general agreement upon a system of land reform which has just been presented to Parliament.

The English conquest of Ireland followed hard upon the defeat of the Spanish Armada. Soon after Elizabeth's death all the best lands in Ireland of those who had been in rebellion were confiscated and turned over to a horde of court favorites. Most of the lucky adventurers who thus became landlords continued to live in England and Scotland, gave no thought to the development of their distant lands or the welfare of their tenants, but from father to son went on wringing annual, extortionate rents from the tillers of the soil. Thus about fifty million dollars was annually carried out of Ireland by the hereditary landlords. Under normal conditions, much of this vast sum would have represented the laborer's margin of profit, and would have been expended in better houses and barns, fertilizers, tools, stock, food, clothes and education.

The toilers, meanwhile, lived in mud huts of one or two rooms, their few cattle, pigs and poultry under the same roof, subsisting almost exclusively upon potatoes. When the potato crop failed and the starvation fever came, a million human beings perished. Since then five millions have emigrated.

A score of years ago Mr. Gladstone's heart went out toward Irish suffering. At least one of his reform measures has been of lasting benefit. He provided that henceforth the courts, not the landlords, should fix the rents, a measure which has since reduced the drain upon Irish resources about twenty million dollars. Moreover, arrangements were made by which the more independent tenants could buy in their lands.

Along this line the present ministry intends to work. It purposes to abolish the whole landlord system and turn the land over to the four hundred thousand tenants. By an annual payment of considerably less than their present rents, the tenants will, after a certain term of years, come into individual ownership of the lands. The present income of the landlords will be made up by the government, which will devote some four million dollars annually to the purpose.

So favorable is the proposed arrangement to both sides in the transfer, that conservative statesmen of all parties believe Ireland's emancipation is near at hand. With the land in question settled, some form of home rule will logically follow; and under these changed conditions it is believed that the Irish people will become not only loyal subjects of the British crown, but one of the most thrifty, prosperous and intelligent classes of peasantry in Europe.—Boston Youth's Companion.